



100

RIVERBANK PARK

N E W A R K • N J

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Gala Dinner Thursday, September 20, 2007

~: WELCOME ~:

Welcome Neighbors and Friends,

Riverbank Park is a precious resource for our community, an oasis of green in a sea of concrete. It is also an historic park, part of the Essex County Parks system, one of the small urban parks designed by the Olmsted Firm and now on the National Historic Register. It is our "community's backyard."

This year we celebrate Riverbank Park's 100th Anniversary — a solemn and joyful occasion. One hundred years ago people had the vision to dedicate this land as a park in the Ironbound neighborhood. For one hundred years, young and old have played, relaxed, run and dreamed in this park, enjoying its beauty. When in 1996, this park was threatened, people joined SPARK and worked together to preserve it. Without the effort of these people, we would not be here today. In the wake of that struggle, people formed SPARK Friends, and began the cultural and educational programs in the park which are engaging young and old in fun and learning-filled experiences, increasing the sense of park stewardship.

This weekend, as we celebrate the park's history through events and exhibits, we contemplate a slogan from a SPARK T-shirt, "Riverbank Park — Where History Lives."

Looking back over 100 years, we are aware of our responsibility, as people interacting with this park. People envisioned and created this park, people have struggled to preserve it, and people will be key to its survival in the future. May Riverbank Park continue to be a place of joyful stories and memories. Thank you for joining in this mission by being part of this special Centennial Celebration.

SPARK Friends Board

SPARK Friends Board & Advisors

Michael Alban,
Down Neck Sports Group
Elizabeth Arango,
East Side High School
Maria Barreiro
Felisa Caminos
Christine Couto
Hon. Essex County Sheriff
Armando Fontoura

Manuel Lavin
Lito Miranda
Joseph Nardone
Richard Partyka,
Ironbound Boys & Girls Club
Joseph Rendeiro,
Hawkins St. School
David and Florence
Schneigelberger

Victoria Snoy, Newark Preservation
& Landmarks Committee
John Soares, Ironbound Soccer Club
Leonard Thomas
Rev. Moacir Weirich,
St. Stephan's UCC &
Grace Community Lutheran Church
Nancy Zak,
Ironbound Community Corporation

Riverbank Park Centennial Committee

Councilman Augusto Amador
Nicole Butler, United Minds, LLC
Raquel Cagley, Brazilian American
United Association
Albert Coutinho,
Coutinho Foundation
Maria D'Carmo, Luso Americano

Pilar Dominguez, PNC Bank
Dan Dowd, Barretto Dowd
John Dwiboroczyn
Frank Gesumaria, Essex County Parks
Marianna Golden, Oliver St. School
Ironbound Business
Improvement District

Elaine Neves
Margaret Renn,
The NJ Historical Society
Dan Salvante,
Essex County Parks Director
Van Buren St. Newark Public Library